

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 22-23 and 25-27 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-21 and 24 have been canceled.

Claims 22, 23 and 27 are currently amended. Support for the claims amendments is found in the specification, page 17, lines 7-30 and Figures 16-18. Device 130 is a compressive system that mechanically deforms the tension member as described in the Applicants specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 22-23 and 26-27 are rejected under 35USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Piper (US 982,742). Claims 22-23 and 26-27 are also rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Mardis (Us 2,189,671).

Newly amended claim 22 is directed to having the features of a first and second compressive system where

"a second compressive system comprising a clamp engaging the tension member by mechanical deformation to provide a second retaining mechanism."

As amended, claim 22 now recites a second compressive system that engages the tension member by a mechanical deformation. It is respectfully submitted that these features in amended claim 22 are not recited anywhere in Piper or Mardis. The cited prior art does not recite two compressive systems where one of the compressive systems comprises a clamp and mechanical deforms the tension member.

Claims 23 and 27 have been amended consistent with amended claim 22 to define the features of a 1)first compressive system and 2) clamp of the second compressive system. Claims 23 and 26-27 are directed to various features that may be combined with the invention of claim 22 and are allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons cited above with respect to claim 22.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piper in view of Down (US 4,143,446). Claim 25 is also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Mardis in view of Down.

Claim 25 is directed to various features that may be combined with the invention of claim 22 and is allowable over the cited art for at least the reasons cited above with respect to claim 22.

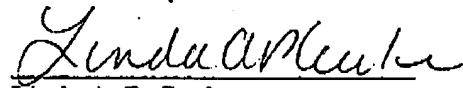
Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 22, 23 and 27 and previously presented claims 25-26 are patentable over the prior cited art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-23, and 25-27.

The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite any further issues or concerns.

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0750, Order No. OT-4416A.

Respectfully submitted,

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